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REPORT NO. CS-311/03619-71

DATE DISTR. 13 May 1971

COUNTRY West Germany/China

DOI 1 May 1971

E/G/DAO/PP

SUBJECT Participation of Chinese Communist Seamen in Hamburg Political Demonstration Sponsored by Pro-Chinese Communist Party of Germany/Marxist-Leninists (KPD/ML)

ACQ Germany, Hamburg (3 May 1971)

FIELD NO. EGG-1700

SOURCE Paragraph 1 from a West German commercial employee with good contacts in leftist circles in Hamburg. He has reported reliably for several years within the limits of his access. He personally witnessed the demonstration described below. Paragraph 2 from an offidial West German Service.

1. Twenty Chinese Communist seamen were active participants in a 1 May 1971 demonstration in Hamburg organized by the Communist Party of Germany/Marxist-Leninists (Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands/Marxisten-Leninisten-KPD/ML). (Field Comment: The KPD/ML is a radical pro-Chinese splinter group founded on 31 December 1968 by Ernst A u s t, a former functionary of the now illegal German Communist Party - Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands-KPD). Some 700-1000 demonstrators gathered for a rally, with Aust as the main speaker, followed by a parade through the city. Aust brought the Chinese to the rally from Hamburg harbor. The seamen, dressed in identical blue/gray uniforms, sang "The East is Red" in Chinese and headed the march, rhythmically waving red "Mao Books" and joining in repeated choruses of "Mao Tse-Tung." The affair appeared to be well-organized and disciplined. (Source Comment: The demonstration was surprisingly large since the KPD/ML in Hamburg has only about 100 members.)

2. The demonstration began at 10:00 A.M. and lasted approximately 3 hours. Later in the afternoon a convoy of 13 cars, led by a truck with KPD/ML banners, traveled to the berth in Hamburg harbor of the MS "Sapphire," of Somali registry. Thirty Chinese crew members formed in ranks in front of the ship and joined the 80 other participants in singing the "International." The ceremony was over in ten minutes. (Field Comment: Although the origin of the Chinese seamen cannot be conclusively determined, the shipping agent for the

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MS "Sapphire" is Rickmers-Linie, exclusive agent in Germany for Sinofracht and itself engaged in shipping to China. The ship arrived in Hamburg on 29 April from China. Rickmers-Linie is also the agent for the "Asia Africa," the only ship in Hamburg harbor on 1 May of Chinese Communist registry. The "Asia Africa" arrived on 26 April from the Red Sea area. There is no information on how arrangements for Chinese participation in the demonstration were made, but Aust is known to have connections to the Chinese Communists through the New China News Agency in Bonn.)

3. Field Dissem: None (Sent [ ]